

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: May 11, 1999 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: In the city of Rolette, many basements are reported to have one foot or less of standing water. As sump pumps move water out of the basement, water seepage is moving water in at about the same rate. Rural residents are concerned about emergency access to their homes because of poor road conditions and water surrounding their property. Some rural residents are using boats to access their homes.

On May 6, portions of McIntosh County received 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches of rain. The gusty winds in combination with standing water have caused additional damage to road shoulders.

Stutsman County officials reported that water is lapping against roadways and over-topping existing rip-rap. Sump pumps in Pingree are running 24 hours a day, and the water table is described as "virtually at ground level." Officials for the Kensal School District reported \$20,000 in water damages. The final cell of the lagoon in Woodworth must use a rented pump to lower the water level since it cannot drain.

Currently, approximately 15 homes near the Devils Lake lakeshore are threatened and several homes have access problems due to the rising level of the lake. A lift station in the Peterson Subdivision and the Woodland Resort area are also threatened by flood waters.

The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,446.42 feet on May 11.

Some school districts are reporting difficulty with bus traffic because of soft roads and concern for increased road damages due to bus traffic.

In Towner County, road crews have identified 100 sites where roads, culverts and bridges have been damaged by flood waters. Road crews have been flagging damage areas and closing roads.

Individuals in the cities of Tappen and Dawson are reporting surface water coming right up to their homes. These homeowners are reporting basements with seepage and sump pumps unable to keep up.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: American Red Cross representatives visited the cities of Rolette and Belcourt on Sunday, May 9 to evaluate damages to individuals' homes.
Members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) are scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. May 25 at the Chieftain Inn in Carrington to discuss flooding issues.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Local, state and federal officials are scheduled to begin a preliminary damage

assessment on May 17 to assess damages to private and public property caused by flooding in 20 counties and two Indian reservations. The reservations include Spirit Lake Tribe and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The counties include: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Dickey, Grand Forks, LaMoure, McHenry, McIntosh, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Rolette, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill and Walsh.

Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are compiling the results of a detailed survey of all structures in the Devils Lake area that would be impacted if the lake were to rise to an elevation of 1,460 feet. The information will be used to determine a long-range mitigation strategy for local government to implement for potentially impacted structures. Field surveys were conducted on May 3-11.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has completed mapping of the floodplains of Devils Lake. Preliminary maps have been released to all communities in Benson and Ramsey Counties and to Spirit Lake Nation. Public meetings to review the maps will be conducted within 90 days.

N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) provided technical assistance and made tandem axle trucks available, if needed, to support flood fight operations in Belcourt during the weekend of May 7-10.

Traill County has issued a disaster declaration due to damages to roads, bridges, and culverts caused by excessive spring runoff and flooding of the Goose River.

The City of Rolette of Rolette County has issued a disaster declaration due to extensive damage from recent severe rains. The city requested and received a pump from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to remove water from the city and transfer it to a drainfield. Although the standing water was not in a developed area of Rolette, it was causing problems with the drainage system for the city's streets and sewer system.

To date, the following counties have issued emergency declarations: Benson, Bottineau, Grand Forks, McHenry, LaMoure, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Rolette, Stutsman and Walsh. Counties issuing disaster declarations are Barnes, Dickey, McIntosh, Sheridan and Towner. Cities issuing emergency declarations include Devils Lake, Churchs Ferry, Grand Forks, Drayton and Pembina. The cities of Minnewaukan, Ludden and Rolette issued disaster declarations. The State of North Dakota issued an emergency declaration on April 13. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Spirit Lake Nation have issued disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: BIA, USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers, State DOT staff and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director